

Framingham Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee
Conference Room 1
Meeting Minutes
Wednesday March 15, 2006 at 7:30 PM

7:30 PM

Meeting called to order at 7:37 with Ed Kross, Tom Branham, William Hanson, Tim Lee and Rich Whalen present.

-> Vote on meeting minutes

Tom Branham moved accept, Ed Kross seconded, motion passed.

-> Review recent correspondence and media articles

The Metro West Daily News recently had a couple of articles about Sudbury and Bruce Freeman Rail Trail.

Joel Winett joined us @ 7:44

7:45 PM

-> Status of the submission of the "Perils for Pedestrians" series for cablecast on Framingham Public Access

Joe Repole is communicating with the cable Public Access channel about airing the series.

-> The 126/135 Task Force held its fourth meeting on February 27. FBPAC members have been appointed to this committee to help ensure that the final design enhances accommodation for pedestrians and bicyclists plus provides an aesthetically pleasing streetscape.

There appears to be a movement away from the idea of the big underpass.

One possibility is the idea of opening up a number of parallel paths to off load some of the traffic. Signage would be needed to help drivers over alternate routes.

The western bypass has some potential difficulties as some parts of the route would require widening, and therefore possibly takings. One of the concerns was does the committee know the destinations of the traffic? An over pass could be built for part of the eastern overpass.

(7:55 Carol Spack joined us)

Depressing 126 would break up down town pedestrian traffic.

Carol Spack mentioned that there is no interest in the idea of depressing Rte 135, instead of Rte 126. People think that the issue is the train tracks, not the interaction between the traffic on Rte 135 & Rte 126.

There are other places where there is a mixture of frequent rail and auto traffic without the delays that Framingham experiences. How does Coolidge Corner in Brookline do it?

Next meeting 3/27?

-> Status of the CTPS feasibility study for a rail trail through Nobscot
Voice mail left for Cathy Buckley-Lewis recently, but no news.

-> Status of the Farm Pond Task Force and the project to install bicycle lockers at MBTA commuter rail stations in the region.
No news. The Farm Pond task force is looking for new members. There are hopes that things will pick up again after the campaign season ends. There has been talk about creating a non-profit "Friends of the Farm Pond" organization to apply for grants and accept donations. There is some foot traffic on in-formal paths along the southern end of Farm Pond. There is some under utilized land on the northern end of the pond that could be a very attractive location for redevelopment.

William Hanson wants to get back to investigating the bike parking funding that was part of the most recent MPO. Tom Branham thinks that the planning department may have filed a proposal.

No news on bike lockers.

8:26 PM

Public Comment

Discussion about development needing to incorporate pedestrian traffic.

Question as to why there is a separate (Cochituate) Rail trail committee from the Bike & Pedestrian committee. The answer is that the work for the rail trail would have been too much work for the Bike & Pedestrian committee, so a separate committee was created.

8:43 PM

Work sessions

-> Develop a press release about the pending installation of bicycle Share the Road signs
This item was postponed until next month because Joe Repole was not present. The timing will be appropriate as it should be ready for bike week in May.

-> Select target areas for the 2006 Street and Sidewalk Survey

Focus on down town crossing & bypasses as there might be work done there due to the task force? Include Farm Pond? Though our effort will be completed after the downtown crossing task force hopes to complete its work, the planning for the actions will have just started, so our input would be appropriate.

Reference maps from the task force. Tom Branham will forward information on location of maps, or documents. The three routes were broken up into north and south portions to keep the scale on a pedestrian level.

Tim Lee: North West - Pearl Street area.

Ed Kross: North Central - Lincoln Street to the tracks.

Tom Branham: South Central

Rich Whalen: North East - Everett to Bishop

William Hanson/Nora Kelly: South East

Steve Zallen: South West

9:07 Tom Branham moved to adjourn. Ed Kross seconded. Meeting adjourned.